

1 BEFORE THE ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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3

25TH DISTRICT

4

5 HEARING held pursuant to Notice on the 7th day

6 of April, 2021, between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and

7 2:46 p.m. via Zoom videoconference.

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14 PRESENT:

15 MADAM CHAIR ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ

16 REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY BUTLER

17 REPRESENTATIVE FRED CRESPO

18 REPRESENTATIVE MICHELLE MUSSMAN

19 STAFF DAN WEBER

20 STAFF SAM MCGEE

21 STAFF BRIAN DE PASQUA

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1 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: The House
2 Committee on Redistricting shall come to order.

3 My name is State Representative Lisa
4 Hernandez. I am one of the members of the
5 Redistricting Committee and will be Chairing
6 today's hearing.

7 I want to start off by acknowledging some of
8 our local elected. We have with us Representative
9 Walker and Representative Crespo. Hello, good
10 afternoon, and then I'm going to pass it over to
11 Leader Butler, if you would like to acknowledge any
12 of your members?

13 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you Madam Chair,
14 and it looks like it's just me on
15 the Republican side. We do have two
16 committees going at the same time. Lake County is
17 going on. I see Representative Severins on that
18 one over there, so for me, there's Severins. Nope.
19 He's on. Nope. There you go. Tom Morrison just
20 popped on as well, so looking forward to testimony
21 today from the northwest cookbook. So thanks for
22 being here.

23 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Okay. So I'm going to --
24 let me start off by just

1 sort of giving the order of things. I'm just going
2 to come -- state a rather -- because -- long
3 statement. Following that, we will have a short
4 presentation from Staff, and then we will move on
5 to our witnesses testifying.

6 So I will begin with starting off by
7 thanking everyone who has chosen to participate in
8 today's hearing. Your insight and participation is
9 important as ever as we begin the redistricting
10 process under unprecedented circumstances. The
11 United States and Illinois Constitutions require
12 the General Assembly to redraw political boundaries
13 every ten years to account for population shifts.
14 These hearings are a part of that process.

15 House Democrats are dedicated to
16 transparency and public participation in the
17 redistricting process. While state law requires a
18 minimum of four public hearings throughout the
19 state, our committee intends to hold far more and
20 present additional avenues for public
21 participation.

22 Our goal is to hear from as many people as
23 possible and to gain as much information as
24 possible about the diverse communities of our

1 state. Our staff has been making hundreds of phone
2 calls to encourage participation in these upcoming
3 hearings. Those who wish to participate should be
4 given an opportunity.

5 We are holding a series virtual and in-person
6 hearings throughout the state.

7 Early last month, we announced a schedule of
8 23 hearings before proposing a redistricting plan.
9 For comparison, in 2011, the housing --
10 redistricting committee held 17 hearings in total.
11 While we are guided in this endeavor by the United
12 States Constitution, the Federal Voting Rights Act,
13 the Illinois Constitution, and the Illinois Voting
14 Rights Act, we are also interested in any relevant
15 demographic information such as social, political,
16 economic, religious, or any other characteristics
17 that are unique to your community.

18 We want to hear your specific views on any
19 social, political, economic, or religious interests
20 commonly held in a community, and any specific
21 interest groups that exist, any concerns you have
22 regarding the current boundaries, or alternatively,
23 what works well about the current boundaries. And
24 suggestions for the drawing of the new boundaries.

1 In short, we want to hear any testimony that is
2 relevant to the drawing of our new political
3 boundaries.

4 This year, for the first time, Illinois
5 residents will be able to participate in the
6 process from the comfort of their own homes,
7 including through remote participation in these
8 hearings and by drawing their own maps via website
9 and that -- the public drawing portal is available
10 for that, and you can find that at the
11 IllinoisHouseDems.com/redistricting and that will
12 allow any Illinois resident to draw districts and
13 share those maps with the Committee for
14 consideration.

15 The public may also submit written testimony
16 or other public comments to the committee by e-mail
17 at redistrictingcommittee@HDN.ILGA.gov. All
18 written testimony, public comments and maps
19 submitted to the committee will be made publicly
20 available at ILGA.gov, HouseDems.com/redistricting.
21 Transcripts of the committee hearings will also be
22 uploaded to those sites.

23 As for today, we will begin with a short
24 slide presentation. Following that brief

1 presentation, we have a number of witnesses who
2 have indicated a desire to testify. If you have
3 any written testimony prepared, we would ask that
4 you submit the testimony to us and just briefly
5 summarize it in your oral presentation. Leader
6 Butler, do you like to add or say anything else?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Leader Butler, would
9 you like to say anything else?

10 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: No. I was just
11 trying to manage both here. So if we want to move
12 forward, that would be great.

13 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Okay. Sounds good.
14 Okay.

15 Next, we will start with the short
16 presentation by Staff.

17 Before we do that, Representative Mussman
18 has also joined us.

19 Hi, Representative.
20 Staff, please begin. I think that's Marissa.

21 MS. JACKSON-DONNELL:
22 Hello, my name is Marissa Jackson-Donnell, I'm an
23 employee of the Illinois House of Representatives.
24 I'm here to give a brief overview of the state's

1 redistricting procedure.

2 I'll briefly discuss the background of
3 restricting and the redistricting process in
4 Illinois. I will also be going over federal and
5 state redistricting requirements and guidelines.
6 Finally, we will be looking at what preliminary
7 data reveals about population trends in the state
8 and region.

9 Redistricting is a process that ensures all
10 Illinois residents are afforded equal
11 representation in the state legislature and federal
12 congress as guaranteed by the United States
13 Constitution.

14 The US Supreme Court held a series of rulings in
15 the 1960s that congressional and state legislative
16 districts in each state must be of approximately
17 equal population, establishing the principal of
18 one-person, one vote. As a result, states redraw
19 their congressional and state districts every ten
20 years to reflect changes in population.

21 The timeline for redrawing the legislative
22 map is based on the Illinois Constitution. The
23 constitution gives Illinois legislature the initial
24 responsibility of passing the new legislative map.

1 Both the State House and State Senate must pass a
2 plan with majority votes, which then must be signed
3 by the governor.

4 If a new map does not go into effect by the
5 constitutional deadline of June 30th,
6 responsibility for creating a new map passes from
7 the legislature to a Legislative Redistricting
8 Commission. The commission, which consists of
9 eight members, with two each appointed by the
10 legislative leaders, and no more than four from the
11 same political party. A majority vote of five or
12 more commission members will constitute final
13 approval of a new map.

14 However, if the commission does not agree to
15 a map by September 1st, the Illinois Supreme Court
16 will submit two names; one from each party, to the
17 Illinois Secretary of State, who will then choose
18 one name at random to serve as a ninth member of
19 the commission. Five of the nine members of the
20 commission must agree to a plan no later than
21 October 5th.

22 In order to understand the process of
23 creating new districts, we must look at the legal
24 guiding principles. First among these is equal

1 population.

2 Congressional districts must be nearly equal in
3 population while state districts must be
4 substantially equal population.

5 Federal and state law also requires that all
6 districts be contiguous, which means that all parts
7 of a district must be next to each other unless
8 connected by water.

9 Annexations and unincorporated areas and
10 municipalities in counties sometimes mean
11 communities are discontiguous. However,
12 congressional and states district -- districts must
13 be adjacent or connected at all points.

14 A more difficult requirement to define is
15 compactness. There are at least 30 different
16 scientific ways to measure how compact the district
17 is, but no statute or court precedent identifies
18 standard criteria of compactness. In theory,
19 compactness focuses on the shape of a district's
20 boundaries, how spread out the district is from the
21 central core, or where the district's population's
22 center of gravity is. In practice, compactness is
23 hindered by geography and on-the-ground realities.
24 So often the interpretation of compactness involves

1 more than a visual test.

2 Illinois is one of 14 states that nests its House
3 Districts, also called Representative Districts,
4 inside the ones of Senate Districts, also called
5 Legislative Districts.

6 Map makers will also look, where possible,
7 to follow existing political and geographical
8 boundaries in ways that maximize a community's
9 opportunity to have its interests represented. As
10 you know, however, county, municipality, township
11 and natural geographic boundaries are not always
12 compact or contiguous.

13 By studying population data and holding
14 public hearings like this to listen to the thoughts
15 of residents across the state, lawmakers look to
16 identify what are known as communities of interest.
17 A "community of interest" is a group of people
18 concentrated in a geographic area or socially,
19 culturally, ethnically, economically, religiously,
20 or otherwise alike, who can be joined in a district
21 most effectively to have their voices heard. The
22 factors contributing to any particular community of
23 interest will vary throughout the state.

24 Federal law requires redistricting plans to

1 respect minority representation. The principles of
2 the federal voting rights act are in place to
3 prevent a reduction of opportunities for minority
4 populations to participate equally in the electoral
5 process. However, districts cannot be drawn solely
6 on the basis of race.

7 Illinois also protects representation of
8 racial and language minority groups. The Illinois
9 Voting Rights Act helps to prevent minority
10 fracturing or dividing a concentration of
11 minorities among two or more districts. By
12 requiring map makers to consider creating Crossover
13 Districts, Coalition Districts, or Influence
14 Districts.

15 A "Crossover District" is one in which large
16 minority groups may elect a candidate of its choice
17 with help from voters of the majority group.

18 A "Coalition District" brings multiple
19 racial or language minority groups together to
20 elect a candidate of their choice.

21 An "Influence District" allows a group to
22 influence an election outcome without being the
23 majority population in a district.

24 Then state law requirements come into play

1 only after compliance with federal law and US and
2 state constitutional requirements on redistricting.
3 In addition, the law ensures transparency and
4 public participation by requiring public hearings
5 across the state, one of which we are having here
6 right now.

7 At the end of the presentation, we'll
8 display an e-mail address on the screen, which
9 Chair Hernandez already provided where you can
10 submit your ideas. The Committee is also accepting
11 written testimony here today.

12 Now that we've covered the redistricting
13 process, let's discuss what data shows about
14 Illinois' population. The US Census Bureau has
15 delayed the release of much of the decennial census
16 data by more than six months, until this fall.
17 However, the US Census Bureau's annual population
18 estimates show some trends that can help inform the
19 work ahead.

20 The Census 2019 Population Estimate shows an
21 overall decline in state population over the past
22 decade. There are, however, areas that project to
23 have some population gains. Communities with the
24 largest population by percentage increase since

1 2010 are Kendall, Monroe, Champaign, and Kane
2 Counties.

3 Demographically speaking, the state's white
4 population is projected to decline, while
5 African-American population, statewide, will likely
6 see a smaller overall decline. Hispanic and Asian
7 population across Illinois are projected to see
8 growth.

9 Locally, Cook County is projected to see a
10 modest decrease in population. The county's white
11 and African-American population stand to decline,
12 while Asian and Hispanic population will likely
13 increase.

14 Thank you very much for your attention, and
15 for coming out to share your thoughts today. As
16 the Chair showed you, you will be able to find
17 testimony from this and other hearings at ILGA.gov
18 and on ILHouseDems.com/redistricting.

19 The redistricting website offers additional ways to
20 engage with the process, including our public map
21 drawing portal, where you can draw and submit your
22 own district maps. You can send further written
23 testimony and suggestions to the Committee any time
24 by e-mailing, redistrictingcommittee@HDS.ILGA.gov.

1 Thank you.

2 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Thank you,

3 Marissa, for the presentation.

4 I actually have one panel and a total of five --

5 one, two -- five wait -- to testify. Leader

6 Butler, I'm going to ask if we can just have them

7 all present and then we'll ask questions at the

8 end.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Sounds good to me.

10 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Are you okay with

11 that?

12 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Yeah. That's

13 perfect.

14 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Okay. I'm going to

15 ask that each witness spell out their name before

16 you -- you present yourself and then spell out your

17 name, and then you could move on to your

18 presentation. Thank you. So we'll start with --

19 and this order we'll go: Syeda? Is it Syeda or

20 Syeda Reema Kamran from the Illinois Muslim Civic

21 Coalition. I'm sorry if I failed to pronounce that

22 correctly.

23 MS. KAMRAN: Thank you, Representative

24 Hernandez.

1 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Okay. And then we
2 have Sann Knipple from League of Women Voters. We
3 have Rosalyn Ryan, a constituent. Eduardo Guillen
4 from Envision Community Services and Jorge Perez
5 from Lincoln Tech Development. Syeda, you can
6 proceed.

7 MS. REEMA SYEDA KAMRAN:
8 Thank you so much, representative Hernandez. My
9 name is Reema Syeda Kamran, and that's spelled
10 R-E-E-M-A, S-Y-E-D-A, K-A-M-R-A-N, and I am with
11 the Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition.

12 We are a coalition of 150 partnered allies
13 of all races, ethnicities, classes, faith, and
14 backgrounds. And with your permission, I am going
15 to share my screen.

16 We just have a visual to go with -- with the
17 presentation, so let me -- let me do that.

18 I hope you all can see my screen right now. Okay.
19 All right.

20 We are coalition of over 150 partners,
21 allies of all races, ethnicities, classes, faiths,
22 and backgrounds. Our focus is on ensuring policies
23 made for us are made with us. And redistricting is
24 one big, very critical piece of this.

1 We appreciate CHANGE Illinois for sharing
2 information about these meetings with us.

3 The coalition recommends that the
4 legislators make sure to use census data, plus
5 community organizations, plus other data when they
6 are engaged in redistricting. And that the
7 process, just as mentioned in the presentation just
8 before this one, is transparent, inclusive, and
9 clear.

10 In Illinois, we have communities that did
11 not exist in 2010, and others that were never vocal
12 about their needs. And still others that have
13 grown in the last ten years. The community that
14 I'm going to speak about fit into many of these
15 criteria. I'd like to share a little data with
16 you, and then my colleague, Chris Nevarez, will
17 also share a little bit about what is happening in
18 neighborhoods across the area.

19 The American story is diverse. Muslim
20 communities -- Muslim communities across our nation
21 are the most diverse faith group. Though we're not
22 a religious organization, we want to highlight that
23 race, class, and faith connect. And when
24 redistricting, these are critical aspects of a

1 community to be taken into consideration.

2 Those who identify as Muslim also identify
3 as African-American, almost 30 percent. Asian, 25
4 percent, white, Arab, Latino, and African
5 immigrants. This is a story many of us do not know
6 because it is often an invisible community. We do
7 our work, we focus on following the rules, and even
8 in my own family, we have Arab, Pakistani, Indian
9 and Latino members. We're a diverse group of
10 different races as well as ethnicities that live
11 together in harmony.

12 Illinois is one of the most diverse states
13 in the US. It ranks among the top 25 percent in
14 racial diversity and in the top ten percent in
15 religious diversity. Illinois has some of the
16 largest numbers of Polish, Irish, African-American,
17 Latino, Catholic, and Hindu residents in the
18 nation, and Illinois has the largest, per capita,
19 of American-Muslim population in America. They
20 beat out Michigan, Virginia and New Jersey and
21 California.

22 These residents live, work, play, pray and
23 serve our cities and counties and they work for a
24 better Illinois, but have zero representation in

1 Illinois. Representation matters. Elected
2 officials must understand their constituents as
3 well as give them the opportunity to be represented
4 within their ranks.

5 We, the Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition will
6 provide maps of diverse Muslims communities across
7 the state, and with this we also wanted to put
8 forth three asks:

9 Muslims represent a critical number of
10 Illinois residents, yet we have zero
11 representation. Our ask: Please do not push our
12 responsibility back to 2030 to ensure
13 representation to critical communities who have
14 zero representation or are currently
15 under-represented.

16 Please understand that Arab communities are
17 identified as white in the US census and our
18 organizations are here to provide info and
19 resources.

20 Ensure that maps reflect the diversity of
21 race, ethnicity, and faith across Illinois. We
22 have to use census data, plus engage organizations
23 whose members understand the racial across ten
24 counties.

1 So I will pause here and introduce my
2 colleague, Chris Nevarez, who is a proud
3 Latino-Muslim, who lead the work on census in the
4 Muslim community. He will share a little bit about
5 his community and the work that he did, and why
6 redistricting matters to him. I believe --

7 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: So before he starts,
8 make sure he spells out his name and I'm hoping
9 that he can also submit a witness slip.

10 MS. KAMRAN: He did. He did.

11 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: You can go on.
12 Okay. Go ahead.

13 MS. KAMRAN: Chris, you on?

14 MR. NEVAREZ: Yes. Hi. I am Christopher
15 Nevarez Azdar, and then I did spell out my name on
16 the witness list.

17 So I'm a resident of the northwest suburbs here in
18 Illinois, and my family emigrated from Mexico to
19 the US over 20 years ago and have been very active
20 members of the community ever since.

21 As a Latino and as a Muslim, I'm very well
22 aware of a lot of the challenges, fears, hopes,
23 dreams, and other shared experiences that a lot of
24 the hard-to-count communities have here in

1 Illinois. And these experiences are exactly what
2 lead me to join the Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition
3 back in 2019, at the very beginning of a lot of the
4 census work leading up to 2020.

5 And from the start, we worked on messaging
6 -- or we worked on actively messaging to create a
7 connection and to resonate really well with all of
8 the community members that we were trying to reach.
9 So one of the tag lines that we used that we found
10 to be very hard-hitting and very effective is as
11 follows:

12 So we -- so our parents/grandparents made
13 the sacrifice to come to America, and now it's our
14 job to make sure that we count in America. And the
15 census is exactly that. It's that opportunity for
16 us to pay it forward, or to pay it back, and then
17 also pay forward for the benefit of our children,
18 our grandchildren, and all those to come.

19 And so to end, we just hope that the census
20 data, the American Community Surveys, and also all
21 the community organizations that know the community
22 really well are a great aid to all of you as you go
23 through this process of redistricting. And we know
24 that it's lengthy and very complex, but we pray and

1 hope that what results from it, and what comes from
2 it, are well drawn out and equitable districts,
3 which are not marginalized a single community and
4 instead protect the proper allocation of funds,
5 resources, and also create the proper and equitable
6 representation that every single Illinois resident
7 deserves.

8 Thank you so much for your time.

9 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chris,
10 for your presentation. So we're going to go, next,
11 to Sann Knipple is -- yeah, Sann --

12 MS. KNIPPLE: It's actually Sann. Sann
13 Knipple.

14 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Okay.

15 MS. SANN KNIPPLE:
16 I'm here to testify on behalf of the League of
17 Women Voters of Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect
18 and Buffalo Grove areas here in the northwest area
19 of Cook County. And really, the League of Women
20 Voters feels that the responsibility for
21 redistricting should --

22 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Sann, can please
23 spell your name out?

24 MS. KNIPPLE: Oh, yeah.

1 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Spell your name out.
2 It's for the court reporter. I'm sorry about that.

3 MS. KNIPPLE: Oh, that's okay. It's -- I
4 just thought because it was on the screen. So it's
5 S-A, N as in Nancy, another N as in Nancy, and
6 Knipple is K-N-I-P-P-L-E.

7 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

8 MS. KNIPPLE: So the League of Women Voters
9 advocates, actually, for an independent special
10 commission to handle redistricting. We prefer it
11 to be taken away from the legislature, but
12 obviously, our attempts at advocating for this have
13 not been successful enough to achieve that. So I
14 just wanted to make sure that that was clear, that
15 that's the stance of the League of Women Voters.

16 But in lieu of that happening, we really
17 advocate for a high level of transparency and
18 allowance for public input. And I -- we feel that
19 the Committees have done a great job of these
20 initial hearings and especially allowing them via
21 Zoom. I think that is a great step forward in
22 increasing public participation, but even more
23 important is to hold hearings between when a final
24 map is introduced and when the votes will be taken

1 in the general assembly, or by the backup
2 commission, however that all shakes out because
3 even -- just as important as you get all of this
4 input here, ahead of drawing a map, is for the
5 public and other organizations like the Muslim --
6 Muslim Civic Coalition to be able to weigh in on
7 the proposed maps before a vote is taken.

8 We would like a website to be maintained
9 with all records from the general assembly's work
10 relevant to the remap and all submissions from the
11 public about the remap.

12 We also ask that a compliance report be
13 provided when the final proposed map is presented,
14 detailing how the mapped drawing meets the mandate
15 of the Federal Voting Rights Act, the Illinois
16 Voting Rights Act, and the other fairness standards
17 that you are considering, including prioritizing
18 minority community voting rights, and communities
19 of interest.

20 And just to reiterate what our -- my friends
21 at the Muslim Civic Coalition were saying, we
22 really feel that this redistricting needs to be
23 based on census data, and since the census data is
24 not going to be available until, potentially, well

1 past the date by which you are constitutionally
2 required to draw maps, we advocate for you to seek
3 a court order to suspend the redistricting
4 deadlines in conjunction with moving the 2022
5 primary election so that this would give you guys
6 more time to draw a map using census rather than,
7 potentially, questionable alternative data.

8 Thank you very much for the opportunity to
9 address the Committee and I will submit this as
10 written testimony as well.

11 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ:

12 Thank you. Thank you very much. Next, we have
13 Rosalyn Ryan. Is she --

14 MS. RYAN: Hi. I'm out here.

15 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Okay, Rosalyn.

16 MS. RYAN: Hi. Rosalyn Ryan.

17 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Rosalyn, one more
18 time, and please spell out your name.

19 MS. ROSALYN RYAN: And it's Rosalyn Ryan.
20 Rosalyn is R-O-S-A-L-Y-N, and Ryan is
21 R-Y-A-N. And I'm here testifying as an individual
22 citizen. And the reason that I am so interested in
23 having a voice in redistricting, I, for years and
24 years, was the subject matter expert in healthcare

1 and did a lot of policy work and a lot of advocacy
2 for the patient, thinking about what is best for
3 the patient. Not necessarily for the system or the
4 insurance company, but the individual being
5 affected by things.

6 And I am strongly affected by all the things
7 that are going on right now -- on right now in our
8 political environment. And the thing that most
9 concerns me is that there is no more discussion.
10 There is no more sharing of ideas and coming
11 together from opposite sides to create views that
12 are diverse and representative.

13 And I would like to see the redistricting
14 happen so that it's along community lines because I
15 can tell you, I live in Arlington Heights, our
16 community is very diverse. It also is very willing
17 to talk about things that we don't agree.

18 We at least agree as neighbors to be civil and to
19 have tough discussions, and to really think about
20 the kinds of things that are important to us. And
21 I am just sort of making a plea, like I did in
22 healthcare, to say the patient is what counts.

23 In this redistricting process, it's the
24 people that count. And I think we need to do a

1 much better job of reaching out to everybody, and
2 figuring out what the points of differences are,
3 how we resolve them, and not base any type of
4 redistricting on gerrymandering or political party
5 affiliations, but more on communications, and
6 outreach, and living together peacefully.

7 So I just wanted a chance to say all that,
8 on the record, and that's my testimony.

9 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Rosalyn.
10 Next we have Eduardo Guillen.

11 You may proceed.

12 MR. EDUARDO GUILLEN: Yes, thanks so much, Madam
13 Chair.

14 So yes, my name is Eduardo "Eddie" Guillen, and I'm
15 speaking on behalf of Envision Community Services,
16 where I've been a board member for two years. We
17 interact with the community, small business owner,
18 and also a community organizer in the southwest of
19 Chicago, which we are in the middle area, and
20 normally people ask me, well, why am I speaking --
21 be -- but at the same time, since we -- I live in
22 the southwest, you know, moving these lines and
23 redistricting, it is a triple effect, it's a domino
24 effect, it affects everybody in the Latino

1 community.

2 So beginning to 2020 and the pandemic, I know a
3 lot of our Latino people, wow, we were doing a lot
4 of census events out in the community. A lot of
5 people weren't out filling out these forms, so I
6 know it's -- I know all the information might not
7 be accurate. That's one thing that I -- kind of --
8 kind of hoping for, hopefully, we did get enough
9 people to go out because again, this past
10 administration and everything being out in the
11 media, I know a lot of our people didn't go out
12 there and put their information out because they --
13 they were afraid.

14 So that being said, over the past ten years,
15 our Latino community has grown over 185 thousand
16 residents in Illinois, which means our community
17 deserves equitable representation in our
18 government.

19 So we cannot afford to get shortchanged.
20 You know, so I -- I believe, with all of my
21 stakeholders and communities that I know of,
22 working with other non-profits, let's -- you know,
23 I believe we should demand a map that's fair and
24 just for our communities.

1 With that being said, Envision, we -- we do
2 a lot of work for developments, continuing
3 education, and civic leadership, and so we work
4 with a lot of agencies and nonprofits in the --
5 now, in the northwest due to Biden, although a lot
6 of our people job laps and get complaints.

7 So I know that this is, again, this is all
8 domino things, so it's crucial that we keep our
9 communities together so we can create districts
10 that represent the interests of our Latino
11 communities. And so as Latinos, we represent over
12 60 million people in the United States, so that
13 means they do need representation. So again, thank
14 you so much for your time. I really appreciate it.

15 Thank you so much.

16 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Thank you,
17 Eddie.

18 Next, we'll go to Jorge Perez from the Lake Effect
19 Development. Are you on, Jorge?

20 MR. PEREZ: Yeah. I'm here.

21 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Okay. All right.
22 Go right ahead.

23 MR. PEREZ: Hi, Leader Hernandez, and hi,
24 everyone else.

1 Again, my name is Jorge Perez, J-O-R-G-E,
2 P-E-R-E-Z, and I'm a board member of a new group
3 called Lake Effect Development. And while the
4 organization was founded on the southeast side of
5 Chicago, there's a tremendous amount of groups in
6 terms of Latinos inside Chicago. A hundred years
7 ago it was the original port of entry, for now,
8 Mexican-Americans coming into work at the then
9 steel mills that were out here. But obviously, the
10 community has grown and our community, as you heard
11 earlier today, continues to grow, the Hispanic
12 community.

13 There's quite a bit of initiative that Lake
14 Effect is focusing on in terms of the future.
15 Obviously, Hispanics, geographically located in the
16 southeast side, however, in my past experience, my
17 previous incarnations, I do understand and got a
18 pretty good understanding of the growth of the
19 Hispanic community and the need for additional
20 resources and additional perspectives throughout
21 the state of Illinois.

22 Clearly, for the call today, the northwest
23 side is -- the northwest suburbs is an area where
24 there's been a boom of Hispanics over the last 20

1 years and we want to ensure that Hispanics are
2 counted and are included in the redistricting
3 process, for it laid the groundwork for the future
4 of our community.

5 And if you look at it from, obviously, a
6 more macro standpoint, we understand that
7 Hispanics, not only here, but throughout the
8 country, the community will continue to grow, and
9 one thing that we want to make sure we're involved
10 in is the economic development of the future of our
11 community and being able to be part of that entire
12 dynamic as we go forward. So I want to just lay
13 out there that we want to be ensuring that the
14 Hispanic community is included in these discussions
15 and the redistricting as we move forward.

16 So again, thank you very much, Leader
17 Hernandez, and thank you, everyone else on the
18 call.

19 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Jorge.
20 So that pretty much concludes -- I hope I'm not
21 missing -- I'm going to just call out, if I missed
22 anyone, to please step up, okay?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Okay. Doesn't look

1 like it. Okay.

2 So next up, I am going to go to questions.
3 So is there any questions from members? Leader Butler?

4 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you,
5 Madam Chair, and again, I appreciate the
6 opportunity to hear from everybody today. I did
7 have a few questions and comments, and I don't know
8 if Mr. -- if Christopher Nevarez Azdar is still on?
9 I think he's still on. Yeah. There you go.

10 Christopher, you had mentioned something
11 about ACS data and you know, we have -- there are
12 concerns about using ACS data, the Community Survey
13 Data because it's incomplete because it doesn't
14 survey everybody because it's not -- in the
15 decennial sense, this is when we -- we count
16 everybody. But, you know, one of the things that
17 actually has been offered in previous hearings,
18 testimony, is the fact that ACS data undercounts
19 minority groups.

20 And so there's a concern that if we draw
21 maps using the ACS data before the -- before this
22 decennial census data comes out, now, in I think,
23 in mid to late August, probably, was the -- that
24 the groups that we're looking to protect, a lot of

1 you that are testifying here today, will be
2 under-represented, actually, the ACS data.

3 So do you have concerns about that, that the
4 ACS data may actually under-represent minority
5 groups?

6 MR. NEVAREZ: Yeah. Well, thank you for the
7 question. Of course, I guess more of what I was
8 thinking was having it be more supplementary to the
9 2020 census data that is going to be coming, which
10 hopefully we'll be more representative because like
11 you said, there are -- there's a lot more issues
12 with counting in those, like, off-year ones,
13 because we don't pitch that to the community, and
14 they get these random letters that ask them a lot
15 of, like, more in-depth questions.

16 And so even when we were talking to
17 communities about the 2020 census, they would say,
18 "Oh, I already filled that out a few years ago,"
19 right? And we'd go, "Oh, no, you haven't." Like
20 unless it was in 2010, this is going to be
21 different, right? It's more basic. This is
22 supposed to go out to every single person. So I
23 guess it would be more in combination with, or kind
24 of used as, like, a cross-reference in that sense.

1 But obviously, yeah, the 2020 Census Data
2 would be more -- more representative. And I'll
3 hand it off to Reema, which is the lead --

4 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Oh, yeah, sure.
5 Reema, if you want to go next?

6 MS. KAMRAN: Yeah. Thank you. So I would
7 use it as long as they are fair. You know, with
8 the ACS, with the census data, with the leadership
9 of organizations at the table, with community
10 organizations being represented at the table so
11 that you can get a -- a pulse on what's going on in
12 communities, under-represented, invisible
13 communities so that there is a holistic picture
14 when -- when these maps are being drawn and
15 redistricting is being done.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Well, I guess that's
17 -- that's our concern, is that once we get done
18 with these hearings, there's no -- there's no real
19 process in place to have those groups involved in
20 the actual drawing of -- of the maps. You're here,
21 obviously, testifying today, and the hope is that
22 your testimony will somehow help guide the drawing
23 of the maps.

24 I'm skeptical of that actually being the

1 case, at the end of the day, but I -- I mean, this
2 is -- this is to the point of Sann -- is it Sann?
3 Is that correct, Sann? To her point, you know,
4 this is why we've long looked for an independent
5 commission that would have -- that would have
6 community members, that would have individuals and
7 not legislature draw the maps because my concern is
8 the fact that we do divide neighborhoods, we do
9 divide communities, and we divide them for partisan
10 and political reasons.

11 And that's what we've seen in the past, and
12 that's what the concern is here today. And on top
13 of that, if we don't have them -- if we're using
14 old data, if we're using ACS data, I've lived in
15 the house that I'm in, for now, 18 years. And I
16 think in those 18 years I've received an ACS survey
17 once in those 18 years.

18 And to Christopher's point, I was kind of
19 confused, when I got it too, as well, about --
20 about what it was. So I just -- you know, we have
21 real concerns about the fact that if we're going to
22 use the ACS data, it won't -- it won't reflect the
23 true demography of the state.

24 And Sann, to your point about these here,

1 yeah, I tell you, it's great that these are on
2 Zoom. I'm watching two of these going on at the
3 same time. There's a Lake County went going on
4 over here, this is Northwest Cook. It's a
5 frustrating thing for me, to be honest with you,
6 and I think it's frustrating for the individual
7 that is having to be scheduled at the same time,
8 but we also have large spots of the state in these
9 20-some hearings that have been scheduled that
10 aren't represented in these, especially western,
11 southern and eastern Illinois.

12 I live in Springfield. I represent a
13 district in the middle of the state, we're having a
14 committee hearing in -- in -- I hope, next week
15 we're having one, we had one in Decatur this
16 morning about Decatur this morning, but south of
17 here, there's only two hearings scheduled, one in
18 East Saint Louis on Sunday and one in Carbondale
19 later in the month. So there are large swabs of
20 the state that have not been represented in these
21 hearings, and I worry about that as well.

22 The fact that we're -- it's crazy here, from
23 the northwest Chicago -- or Cook folks, we're
24 speaking to the Lake County folks today, but there

1 are large areas of the state that aren't being
2 represented as well.

3 Rosalyn, I couldn't agree with you more
4 about respecting existing boundaries. Obviously,
5 we know that can't be the case that -- we can't
6 follow all the boundaries of townships and counties
7 and cities and villages because you're going to
8 have to draw a line somewhere, but I think that
9 gets to the frustration of a lot of people that --
10 that, you know, their communities get divided up,
11 they're in one legislator's district one year and
12 in another's then the next time because the lines
13 get drawn and things like that. And obviously, we
14 have to change the lines because of the change in
15 -- change in population.

16 But I do think that is a great source of
17 frustration that we -- that we need to respect all
18 communities, communities of color that are
19 represented up here -- here today, religious
20 communities, things like this, that to the best of
21 our ability, within the law, but also at respecting
22 existing governmental boundaries is important as
23 well, and I think that's something that's really
24 been overlooked, that other states actually do

1 that. Other states actually provide for that in
2 their constitutions, to place a priority on that as
3 well. We don't do that in Illinois.

4 And so finally, Mr. Perez, good to see you
5 again. It was -- I'm glad you were here to testify
6 today, and it was good to meet you up at the
7 Chicago one this past Saturday, and the work that
8 you're dealing with Lake Effect -- Lake Effect
9 Development.

10 So thank you, Madam Chair, as always, I
11 appreciate the opportunity to interact with these
12 folks, and thank you all for testifying and being
13 here today.

14 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ:

15 Okay. So do we have any further questions from
16 members?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Okay. Going once.
19 Going twice.

20 (No verbal response.)

21 MADAM CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Okay. There being
22 no more questions, that actually concludes this
23 hearing.

24 I think we're up to 11, 12, maybe 13. I've lost

1 count. But anyway, we really, really appreciate
2 the input, this is very valuable to the direction
3 that we may be moving. The input of the community
4 is extremely important and we have found ways to
5 try to engage, and really, ask of you, too, to
6 continue to encourage other community members with
7 the last of the hearings that we have to also
8 participate.

9 So once again, thank you very much, and with
10 that, we will recess to the call of the Chair.

11 Thank you all and have a good afternoon.

12 (Which were all the proceedings heard
13 this time, date, and place.)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF COOK)
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5 Deborah Bridges Duffy, CSR, RPR, being
6 first duly sworn, on oath says that she is a court
7 reporter doing business in the State of Illinois;
8 and that she reported in shorthand the proceedings
9 of said meeting and that the foregoing is a true and
10 correct transcript of her shorthand notes so taken
11 as aforesaid, and contains the proceedings given at
12 said meeting.

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Deborah Bridges Duffy, CSR, RPR

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